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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Muessig

Examiner:

Serial No: 10/xxx,xxx

Art Unit:

For: ENDOSCOPIC CATHETER

Filed: 8 February 2002

Date: 8 February 2002

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231



INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Under 37 CFR 1.97

This Information Disclosure Statement is filed at the time of filing of the application, so it is timely filed without payment of a fee. 37 CFR §1.97(b).

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made (37 CFR §1.56(g)), an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability or that no other material information exists.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as an admission against interest in any manner. Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 13, at 25.

This Information Disclosure Statement is made to comply with the duty of candor imposed on all individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of this application, as defined by 37 CFR §1.56(c).

Three (3) United States patents and two (2) foreign patent documents are listed on the attached one (1) sheet of Form PTO/SB/08A which is made a part hereof. A copy of each is enclosed. Also enclosed, but not listed on the form, is a copy of a search report from the German Patent Office on German application 101 07 586.3, on

which this US application claims priority.

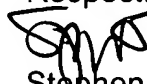
The German search report is in the German language, but it uses the international conventions for citation of prior art, so it is clear from the report that no "novelty" references are made. The references cited in the German search report are listed as References AA, BA and BB on the Form PTO/SB/08A. The German search report cites these references as the basis for "obviousness" rejections.

Reference AB is an English language equivalent of Reference BB, which is in German. Reference BA is already in English.

Reference AC is another reference known to the applicants, although not cited in the German search report. It is cited in the specification as filed at paragraph [0002].

The foregoing Information Disclosure Statement is based upon the information known to the inventor or contained in the undersigned attorney's file as of the filing date of this statement and is inclusive of the best information known to each of the undersigned at that date. Prompt consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement and the references by the Examiner is earnestly requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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